

**Against separation –
early intervention
in Russia, Byelorussia and
Ukraine**

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St. Petersburg Early Intervention Institute

- NGO started as a private initiative at the end of 1980-ties, registered in 1991
- 1992 – St. Petersburg City high priority social “Infant habilitation” program
- 1998 – 2003 – St. Petersburg City medical – social “Children with Disabilities” Program
- International Support :
information, education, financing

EI programs for families:

- Home visiting
- Center based:
- ‘Gate-keeper’ assessment
- Individual sessions
- Group sessions
- Audiology (Assessment + screening at NICU)
- Assessment of vision
- Technical aids fitting

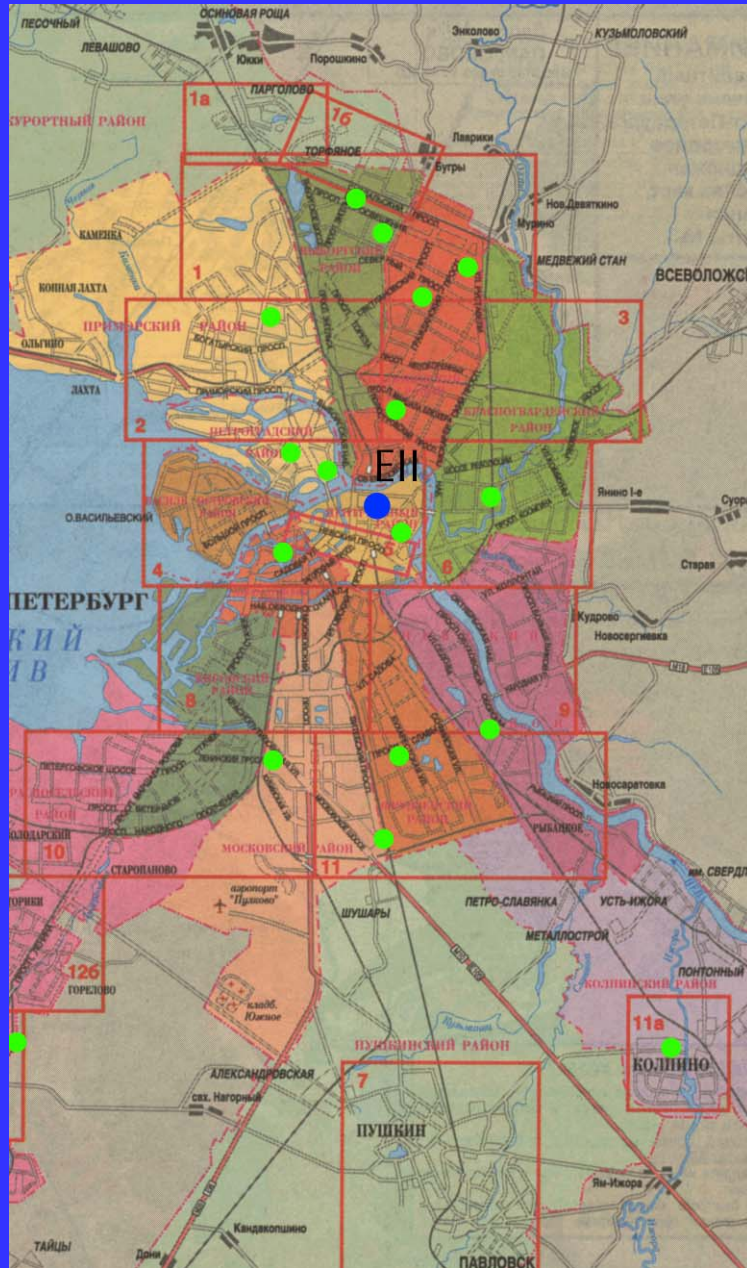
Ell programs

- Transition to preschool
- Parents clubs (inclusive and 'specialized')
- Individual consultations
- R-KID / CDI scales

Partners:

- Russia: EII, EI unit in Arkhangelsk, EI unit in Velikij Novgorod
- Byelorussia: EI unit in Minsk
- Ukraine: EI unit in Kharkiv
- Sweden: Save the Children Sweden, Ersta & Skondal University College, SHI, Stockholm Habilitirung, Sida

EII in St. Petersburg



- At the moment St. Petersburg is only the one city in Russia where early intervention programs function in different districts of the city as a common network

Early intervention in Russia, Byelorussia, Ukraine as a question of children rights and human rights in general

- violation of children's right to live with parents and parents' right to live with a child
- children rights activities – legal consultations for parents, conferences, advocacy, participation in writing Alternative report to UN on Convention on Children rights

Changing attitudes towards disabled children, 'bad' families and institutional care

- **Children with Down syndrome - program for the staff of maternity hospitals and medical genetic center**
- **Round tables on TV on institutional care**
- **Psychosocial needs of young children, attachment theory - “Road home” film**

“Evidence based knowledge”

- Clinicians as researchers – master course for multidisciplinary early intervention teams at Ersta & Skondal University College
- “There are no uneducable children in Russia ! Book about early intervention”
- “Early intervention for disabled children in Russia. A multidisciplinary approach”
- “Against separation” – main ideas and concepts, methods of evaluation, empirical examples

- **“Russian talking” Early Intervention Association – established April 2008**
- **EII as an international knowledge center in early intervention – plans for future**
- **International cooperation as one of ways to oppose modern trends to “separate Russia”**

Early intervention

- 'Normalize' life of the child and the family
- Parents as partners

Early diagnostics and correction

- Correct defects and 'normalize' child
- Parents as obstacles or patients